

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HAVANA 00637 101818Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-01 FBIE-00 JUSE-00 SCS-06
CA-01 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PPT-01 USIE-00 /039 W
-----059267 101823Z /64

O 101622Z MAR 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1355
DIR FBI WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MONTREAL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0637

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: CASC CPAS CGEN ASEC PINS CU CA
SUBJ: ABORTED MOVEMENT OF AMCIT FUGITIVES IN CUBA

REF: STATE 61753

1. WILL INFORM CUBAN AUTHORITIES IMPOSSIBILITY OF MOVING
SUBJECTS ON CUBANA 10 MARCH FLIGHT.

2. CONOFF DISCUSSED EVENTS 9 MARCH WITH CAPTAIN JULIAN DE
LA TORRE, CHIEF IMMIGRATION HOUSE, WHO WAS AT AIRPORT WHEN
AIR CANADA REFUSED TO BOARD SUBJECTS. DE LA TORRE OBSERVED
THAT AIR CANADA SECURITY CHIEF ACCOMPANIED BY THREE "GIANTS"
WHOM HE OBSERVED TO BE ARMED WITH PISTOLS AND BELIEVED TO
BE "AGENTS" RATHER THAN AIRLINE SECURITY PEOPLE. HE SAID
THAT AIR CANADA INTENDED TO HAND-CUFF SUBJECTS IN TERMINAL
BEFORE BOARDING THEM TO WHICH HE STRONGLY OBJECTED. HE
FAILED TO UNDERSTAND WHY FOUR ARMED MEN COULDN'T CONTROL
SIX HANDCUFFED PASSENGERS SEGREGATED IN FIRST CLASS SECTION
OF FLIGHT OR HOW "FLYING WAITRESSES" COULD REFUSE ORDERS
OF CAPTAIN. CONSIDERED WHOLE AFFAIR SHOW OF COWARDICE.

3. ABOUT PRESS, DE LA TORRE REMARKED THAT AS RESULT EVENTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HAVANA 00637 101818Z

YESTERDAY, CASE WILL GET PUBLICITY US AND GOC SO CAREFULLY
TRIED TO AVOID AND CUBA'S ENEMIES WILL ACCUSE THEM OF
"TURNING THE HIJACKERS OVER" TO USG.

4. THERE IS SERIOUS RISK THAT THIS PERCEPTION WILL BE SHARED
BY HIGH CUBAN OFFICIALS IF FURTHER PUBLICITY PROVES EMBAR-
RASSING, AND THAT ENTIRE PROJECT WILL BE ABORTED. (WE

SUGGEST IN THIS CONNECTION THAT VOA BE GIVEN SUITABLE GUIDANCE BY USIA/IOP). USINT THEREFORE BELIEVES ESSENTIAL THAT SUBJECTS, NOW IN CUBAN IMMIGRATION CUSTODY, BE MOVED EXPEDITIOUSLY BUT CAREFULLY. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, CUBANA FLIGHT TO MONTREAL STILL BEST OPTION. CUBANA READY, WILLING AND ABLE TO MOVE SUBJECTS EXPEDITIOUSLY AND WITH LEAST RISK OF FURTHER UNTOWARD PUBLICITY. IF CANADIAN IMMIGRATION SNAG CAN BE BROKEN, SUGGEST DEPT SERIOUSLY RECONSIDER CUBANA OPTION TO MOVE SUBJECT BEFORE FURTHER HANGUPS DEVELOP. ALTERNATIVELY, JAMAICA AND MEXICO SHOULD BE CONSIDERED UNLESS IT IS CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT CANADIANS WILL COOPERATE.

5. GIVEN ABOVE, ALSO SUGGEST THAT IF AIR CANADA ONLY ACCEPTABLE OPTION, DEPT ASSURE THAT SECURITY PERSONNEL NOT ATTEMPT TO HANDCUFF PASSENGERS UNTIL THEY HAVE BOARDED AIRCRAFT AND AVOID OVERT APPEARANCE IN CUBA OF ARMED POLICE OFFICERS.

6. PRESS GUIDANCE SHOULD MAKE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR DEPARTURE TERMS ARE TRANSPORTATION TO A THIRD COUNTRY WITH APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION. SUGGEST CHANGE ANSWER ONE TO READ QUOTE DEPARTURE FROM CUBA TO THIRD COUNTRY UNQUOTE, ANSWER 3 TO DROP "ENROUTE TO NEW YORK; AND ANSWER 6 TO READ QUOTE OTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR THEIR TRANSPORT TO A THIRD COUNTRY ARE BEING EXPLORED. UNQUOTE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HAVANA 00637 101818Z

LANE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, FUGITIVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HAVANA00637
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780108-0737
Format: TEL
From: HAVANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780384/aaaacsqj.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cbaeacc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 61753
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3376434
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ABORTED MOVEMENT OF AMCIT FUGITIVES IN CUBA
TAGS: CASC, CPAS, CGEN, ASEC, PINS, CU, CA, US
To: STATE FBI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cbaeacc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014